

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 054108
ORIGIN HA-05

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APPROVED BY HA:ORM:SCLOWMAN
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 054108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

FOR BARNES FROM LOWMAN:

1. OUR COMBINED FEBRUARY 17 REPORT SHOWS A RESIDUAL BOAT CASE LOAD OF ABOUT 6600. WHILE NUMBERS OF THESE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GO TO THIRD COUNTRIES, IT IS CLEAR THAT AVAILABLE NUMBERS UNDER IPP-78 WILL SOON BE EXHAUSTED. IF, AS SEEMS LIKELY, WE ARE FORCED TO RECOMMEND FURTHER PAROLE FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN EARLY APRIL, WE SHOULD CONSIDER INCLUDING QUALIFIED LAND CAMP CASES IN THIS REQUEST. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP A WELL DOCUMENTED CASE FOR SUCH A PAROLE, WE WILL NEED YOUR BEST ESTIMATES OF SUCH CASES BY MID-MARCH. WE RECOGNIZE THAT YOU HAVE BEEN FORCED TO CEASE SCREENING NEW LAND ARRIVALS FOR THE TIME BEING BUT HOPE THAT THE EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE GAINED OVER THE PAST MONTHS

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WITH IPP-77 WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR AN INFORMED ESTIMATE. THOSE APPROVED IN 8000 PAROLE OF COURSE CREATE NEW CAT I ELIGIBLES. PLEASE APPLY PRESENT CAT III CRITERIA RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVELY IN ESTIMATING ELIGIBILITY.

2. THE ADMINISTRATION IS STILL SEEKING AN AGREED UPON LONG TERM POLICY FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR

THAT THIS WILL INVOLVE SOME LEVEL OF CONTINUED MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES OUT OF THAILAND. IRC HAS REPEATED YOUR CALL FOR TRANSIT FACILITIES OUTSIDE OF THAILAND. WHILE WE BELIEVE THE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SUCH A CENTER MAKE IT IMPRACTICAL, WE DO RECOGNIZE THE UNDERLYING PROBLEMS WHICH PROMPTED SUCH A SUGGESTION.

3. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR JUDGEMENT AS TO THE BENEFITS AND PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ICEM RUN TRANSIT AND HOLDING CENTER IN THAILAND EXCLUSIVELY FOR REFUGEES INVOLVED IN THE US PROGRAM. SUCH A CENTER MIGHT BE SUBSTANTIAL IN ITS CAPACITY: PERHAPS UP TO 5000. IT WOULD SERVE NOT ONLY AS A TRANSIT CENTER FOR REFUGEE OUT PROCESSING BUT ALSO AS A HOLDING CENTER FOR REFUGEES APPROVED UNDER THE US PROGRAM AND AWAITING SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES. WE CAN SEE SUBSTANTIAL ADVANTAGES TO THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A CENTER AND, APART FROM THE COST OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION, SEE FEW DISADVANTAGES. WE WOULD LIKE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, AS WE MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF FORMULATING LONGER RANGE INDO-CHINESE POLICY.

4. BOTH OF THE ABOVE REQUESTS REFER TO PROPOSALS IN THE PLANNING OR TENTATIVE STAGE AND SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED
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WITH NON-USG PERSONNEL, EVEN THOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THIS LIMITATION RESTRICTS SOMEWHAT YOUR ABILITY TO FORMULATE AN INFORMED RESPONSE.

5. BANGKOK 6210 PARA 1B ASKED ABOUT CRITERIA TO BE USED IN SCREENING OF NEW ARRIVALS. FOR PRESENT, AND IN MAKING ESTIMATES REQUESTED ABOVE USE IPP-77 CATEGORIES. CHRISTOPHER

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